Activities of Lashkar-e-Toiba in India

*324. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the Government's notice that Pakistan-based terrorist organisation, Lashkar-e-Toiba (L-e-T) is functioning in more than 36 cities in India, backing organised criminal gangs and is involved in large scale drug trafficking and smuggling of counterfeit Indian currency;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken so far to smash the disruptive activities of L-e-T and similar terrorist outfits operating in this country and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Lashkar-e-Toiba is mainly operating in Jammu and Kashmir, but there are reports that the outfit has spread its network in other parts of the country as well like Hyderabad, Mumbai, Jodhpur, Kanpur, Dehradun, Bhuj and Delhi. No confirmed report of LeT's involvement in drug trafficking and smuggling of counterfeit Indian currency has been received. However, such possibilities cannot be ruled out.

(c) Government has adopted a well coordinated and multi-pronged approach for tackling the activities of militants which includes strengthening the border management to check illegal cross border activities, gearing up the intelligence machinery, close interaction between agencies of the Centre and the State Governments, neutralizing plans of militants and anti-national elements by coordinated action, modernization and upgradation of police and security forces with advanced sophisticated weapons and communication system, etc. As a result of coordinated action, several terrorist modules have been neutralized.

Diplomatic initiatives have also been taken with various countries to enlist their support in countering the activities of militant groups.

Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance, 2001 has been promulgated under which 25 organisations, including Lashkar-e-Toiba have been notified as Terrorist Organisations.

Surrender offer made by Veerappan

*325. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that brigand Veerappan has offered to surrender on certain conditions;

(b) if so, how the State Governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have reacted to the offer;

(c) whether Central Government propose to intervene in the matter; and

(d) if so, the stand of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Both the State Governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have intimated that no surrender offer by Veerappan has been received by them.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Installation of statues of Smt. Indira Gandhi and Shri Veer Savarkar

*326. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to install the statues of Smt. Indira Gandhi and that of Shri Veer Savarkar, who was detained in Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

(b) if so, when this decision is going to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) The statue of Shri Veer Savarkar was installed in Veer Savarkar Park in front of the National Memorial, Cellular Jail, Port Blair and unveiled on 2nd February, 1984 as a part of his birth